

hydration reaction in a aqueous solution containing about $\frac{1}{2}\%$ to 4% citric acid.

3. A joint compound as defined in claim 2 wherein said hydration reaction consisted of adding calcium sulfate anhydrite to an aqueous solution of about $\frac{1}{2}\%$ to 4% citric acid and about 2% to 10% sodium sulfate and maintaining the reaction at about 70° F. for about eight hours.

4. A joint compound as defined in claim 3, wherein said calcium sulfate dihydrate formed in said hydration reaction is separated from said solution and used without any further treatment.

5. A joint compound as defined in claim 1 which is free of mica.

6. A joint compound as defined in claim 1 wherein the joint compound consists essentially of a major portion of finely ground, inert, inorganic filler, a minor amount of a binder having the ability to contribute substantially to the binding together of all of the ingredients when the joint compound is applied to a wallboard when mixed with water, a minor portion of additives for pro-

viding working properties during application to a wallboard when mixed with water, and said special additive for minimizing shrinkage during drying.

7. A joint compound as defined in claim 6 wherein said calcium sulfate dihydrate has been formed by a hydration reaction in an aqueous solution containing about $\frac{1}{2}\%$ to 4% citric acid.

8. A joint compound as defined in claim 7 wherein said hydration reaction consisted of adding calcium sulfate anhydrite to an aqueous solution of about $\frac{1}{2}\%$ to 4% citric acid and about 2% to 10% sodium sulfate and maintaining the reaction at about 70° F. for about eight hours.

9. A joint compound as defined in claim 8, wherein said calcium sulfate dihydrate formed in said hydration reaction is separated from said solution and used without any further treatment.

10. A joint compound as defined in claim 6 which is free of mica.

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